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### Abstract

The invention relates to a method for a toxicological diagnostic. According to the invention, a DNA sample is taken from an organism or a cell culture which has been exposed to a specific substance which is to be examined on account of its toxicological effect. The DNA contained in said sample is chemically pre-treated and the base sequence of a section of the modified DNA is determined. From there, a characteristic methylation state or a characteristic methylation model is determined for the sample. By comparison with data from methylation states of other samples, the effect of a substance on the organism or the cell culture is determined and/or compared to other substances in toxicological terms.

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